

CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents Connecticut off-premise package store retailers. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT.

We are submitting this testimony on the following bills:

H.B. No. 6885 (RAISED) AN ACT PERMITTING RESTAURANT, CAFE AND TAVERN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR PERMIT HOLDERS TO SELL GROWLERS OF BEER AT RETAIL.

We oppose this bill although we usually find common ground with the restaurant association on most issues. Package stores have off-premise permits in the state allowing for the sale of sealed containers but not for the on premise consumption of those products outside of tasting small samples. On-premise permits, which the restaurants have, allow for on premise consumption of product. The delineation between these two permits is very clear. We believe this bill allows for off-premise sales from restaurants and we cannot support this expansion into retail sales.

S.B. No. 977 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CRAFT MANUFACTURERS OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR

We support this bill as craft distillers are integral partners with package stores. We have worked with the proponents to draft the bill so that all of the stakeholder interests are represented and that it would provide the necessary potential for growth of the craft distiller industry in CT.

H.B. No. 6858 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR FLOOR STOCK ALLOWANCES AND DEPLETION ALLOWANCES. We support this bill because we want to ensure that the proper analysis is done and that the underlining issue that a law of this sort could lead to quantity discounting is fully vetted. Quantity discounting is currently not permitted in CT for good reason because of the damage it will do to product selection.

H.B. No. 6859 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CASE BOTTLE QUANTITIES FOR CERTAIN ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR. We oppose this bill at this time. At first glance, when viewed as a single document, this bill seems relatively benign. It is when you factor in the other looming "potential" changes to our industry, most notably the repeal of minimum bottle, that this bill becomes problematic, simply because of the un-known ramifications. At this time Bill 6859 represents un-necessary changes. We feel this is just one piece to a much larger plan that certain entities have devised to slowly dismantle the liquor laws as they stand today so as to ultimately create conditions in the market place that favor their "big box" business model and severely hamper the small, local business owner's ability to compete.

H.B. No. 6691 AN ACT CONCERNING CASH REFUNDS FOR GIFT CARD BALANCES.

We oppose this bill as written at this time. We feel that as retailers we should be able to control how our gift certificates and money in our businesses is spent.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony and for considering our concerns.